**CONTINUED EXAMIN** TRANSMI7

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.

See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA)

| Application Number     | 09/421,434       |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Filing Date ON A       | October 19, 1999 |
| First Named Inventor   | Takaaki ASADA    |
| Group Art Unit         | 2-1n 3726        |
| Examiner Name          | D. Tugbang       |
| Attorney Docket Number | 36856,226        |

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application. 37 C.F.R. § is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may Wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53 (d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the Patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed.Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000) which

| established RCE practice.   |  |   |   |  |  |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| (Any unentered amendm   | on May 23, 2002  Iment(s) reply under 37 C.F.R. ent(s) referred to above will be entered to abov | § 1.116 previously file of the state of the | <b>⋌</b> \  |  |  |
| a period of mon   | on the above-identified applic<br>ths. (Period of suspension shall no  | ation is requested und<br>exceed 3 months; Fee unde   | er 37 C.F.R. § 1.103© for<br>or 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required) |  |  |
| 1. Fees  The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 (e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.  a. □ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 07/05/2002 AWONDAF1 00000004 09421434  i. □ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)  ii. □ Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)  iii. □ Other  b. □ Check in the amount of \$ enclosed  c. ☑ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed) |  |   |   |  |  |
| SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED   |  |   |   |  |  |
| Name (Print/Type) Signature   | Joseph R. Keating  | Registration Date   | No. (Attorney/Agent) 37,368  June 27, 2002                    |  |  |
| CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION  |  |   |   |  |  |

| CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION  I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on: |                |      |               |  |  |  |
|---|----------------|------|---------------|--|--|--|
|   |                |      |               |  |  |  |
| Signature   | Homa V. marean | Date | June 27, 2002 |  |  |  |